(5) The Produce Cess Act, 1966 (15 of 1966)

(6) Export (quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963)

(7) Customs Act, 1962; and

(8) Sea Customs Act, 1978.

It is the policy of the Government to promote the export of agricultural commodities in such a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected. hence, all agricultural commodities may be exported without any restriction except to the extent that such exports are regulated by the Negative List of exports or any other provisions of the extent Export Policy, or any other law for the time being in force.

Export of non-basmati Rice

3645. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export non-basmati rice to earn foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, details of the export plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the current year, around 45,808 MTs of non-basmati rice valued at Rs. 37.98 crores has already been exported. Further quota release is under consideration.

Losses to MMTC due to unloading operations at Visakhapatnam

3646. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC is suffering heavy losses due to payment of demurrages to the buyers abroad because Visakhapatnam port trust is unable to conduct loading operations in time;

(b) if so, the extent of loss incurred by MMTC because of delay in loading by VPT per year in foreign exchange for the last three years; year-wise; and

(c) what steps are taken/proposed to be taken to improve the efficiency of loading operations at Visakhapatnam Port Trust and other major ports in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Due to various reasons, delays occur in loading operations of iron ore vessels at Visakhapatnam Port resulting in demurrage most of which is payable in foreign exchange and these reasons include breakdowns of the loading equipment installed at Visakhapatnam Port Trust.

(b) amount of demurrage incurred in foreign exchange exclusively on account of delay in loading by VPT is not available. However, year-wise demurrage incurred from 1988-89 on foreign flag vessels loaded with iron ore at Visakhapatnam Port which is payable in foreign exchange has been as under:—

Year	Demurrage in US$
1988-89	3,68,521.12
1989-90	3,99,930.18
1990-91	3,92,188.77
1991-92	7,26,169.42
1992-93 (Upto Nov. 92)	5,03,424.25

(c) Ports undertake preventive maintenance as well as prompt repairs to minimise the equipment breakdowns and reduce delays in loading and improve efficiency of the loading operations. Review of ports' performance is also undertaken by the Ministry of Surface Transport periodically at inter-Ministerial meetings.